



A Century of Progress with Pride



Pictured: FF. Russ Marzullo, FF. Dave Olinger, FF. Mario Manfredini Eng. Mike Chiapetta FF Mark Warta, Mayor Lovero, Congressman Lipinski, Deputy Chief Greg DiMenna, Deputy Chief Paul Gardner

In March of 2009 the Berwyn Fire Department applied for and received an “Assistance to Firefighters Grant” (AFG) through FEMA to upgrade and replace the departments Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA’S), to 2007 National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards. The departments 25 current SCBA’s are 1997 NFPA Compliant and over tens years old. Maintenance costs to service this aging equipment are increasing annually due to their age and daily use.

Through the successful pursuit of this particular grant, the department will increase the number of SCBA’s to 30, allowing for a rotation in and out of service, providing a timeframe for scheduled

maintenance, and decreasing the overall use during each units lifespan.

The original grant application applied for was \$213, 400.00, with a 20% City cost of \$42,700.00. The Berwyn Fire Department was awarded a grant of \$140,500.00. FEMA will contribute \$112,400.00. The City of Berwyn must contribute 20% of the total cost for the project totaling \$28,100.00. This amount was approved by City Council and was budgeted for this year.

The new Air Packs we received are Chemical, Biological, Radiation, and Nuclear (CBRN) compliant, along with a Heads up Display (HUD). This feature allows the firefighters to monitor the amount of air in their tank by looking at a small LED display in their facemask.

Included in the Grant, we have received a Pack Tracker Location unit and the latest version of the Personal Accountability Safety System (PASS) Device, which allows the Incident Commander to track and provide a location of a fallen firefighter quickly to other responding personnel.

Once awarded the Grant in February of 2010, firefighters have researched the current equipment and have gone out for bids for the project. The product was received in August and training will begin in September. Once all firefighters are trained in the use of the units they will be placed in service and the old units will be traded-in to the vendor as part of the project.

The application for the grant is submitted online by the Fire Chief with the assistance of the Command Staff and firefighters.

Respectfully,

Chief Denis O'Halloran.

